



DIGEST

FINDERS KEEPERS?

Cash, false teeth, wigs, kinky underwear... If you rent out your overseas home, these are just a few of the things you might find there, left behind by forgetful holidaymakers. Prepare yourself

If you let your holiday home to strangers you never know what you might find there the next time you visit.

A survey by rentals website Owners Direct has revealed that holidaymakers leave behind all kinds of things when they leave their rented accommodation, including – amazingly – items needed to get them home, such as passports, travel documents, car and house keys, and money.

Some people even leave forgotten wads of cash stashed under a bed and a few have walked out without their luggage. And the survey discloses that even vital medicines are regularly left behind.

One property-owner, who lets out an apartment in Mallorca said: "One of our guests left behind a ladies handbag with all their travel documents, money and prescription medicines in. They missed their flight as they had to return to collect it. Perhaps it was a subconscious way of extending their holiday!"

Bizarre items left behind in holiday accommodation around the world include a pair of Father Christmas trousers and a beard, a set of house deeds, a false leg, a bongo drum and a full

sized rubber face mask of George Bush.

"The full head mask was fitted on to the end of a bolster cushion which had been propped up to look like a person," said the apartment owner from Barcelona who "greeted" George Bush.

"There was a speech bubble pinned to his chest and a written message from 'Mr Bush' himself. This was left by a couple of traditionally Republican voters who voted Democrat for the first time when George Bush was finally voted out. It struck me that the apartment was an unlikely forum for political comment."

A surprising number of abandoned false teeth (no on-board peanuts for them, then) and toupees (how did they get through passport control?) get left behind. And apparently, marital aids, contraception and risqué underwear are discovered in holiday accommodation on a very regular basis... Unwanted consumables include sunscreen, perfumes, food and enough booze to stock a small bar.

Finally, one very considerate eco-aware guest swapped all the light bulbs in the holiday cottage they stayed in for low energy ones, free of charge. Angela Southall, marketing manager at Owners Direct, says: "We were surprised just how many essential items are left behind by holiday guests, but the survey also highlighted how considerate and helpful our property owners are. They all reported doing their best to return items they had found. One of our advertisers of a gite in Normandy recalls carefully packaging up a very precious bear who got left behind, with a little French flag." www.ownersdirect.co.uk

Have you an interesting tale about renting out a holiday home? If so, email richardw@apitsltd.com

